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TO. Monica Tonel, Task Monitor, U S EPA, Region 10, Seattle, WA

FROM. ~~for~~ Annette Franzen, START Project Leader, E & E, Seattle, WA *DB*

SUBJ Site Recommendations
Upper Columbia River/Lake Roosevelt Site Preliminary Assessment
Northeast Washington

REF Contract No. 68-W6-0008
Technical Direction Document No 99-10-0002

CC Gary Sink, START Project Officer, U S EPA, Region 10, Seattle, WA
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This recommendations memorandum has been developed for the Upper Columbia River/Lake Roosevelt site located in northeast Washington, as part of a Preliminary Assessment (PA). The PA consisted of an evaluation of 150 miles of the Columbia River between the Grand Coulee Dam and the United States boundary with Canada

Analytical data have shown that widespread contamination is present in river and lake sediments throughout the study area. During prior studies, sediment samples were collected in the Columbia River/Lake Roosevelt study area, and in locations upgradient of known sources, and tributaries emptying into the study area. Concentrations of metals, including arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc, were significantly higher in most of the samples collected from the study area, than in the associated background and tributary samples. In addition, elevated concentrations of dioxins, furans, and PCBs have also been documented in the study area. Significantly elevated levels of these contaminants have also been documented in fish tissue samples collected in the study area. Mercury levels exceeding Canadian health standards in fish tissue also have been documented.

Lake Roosevelt is a major recreational area with over one million visitors per year. Recreational activities include sport fishing, boating, swimming, and camping. The area is also of economic and cultural significance to Native American populations. Subsistence fishing may constitute a major portion of some resident's diets. Additional concerns include potential exposure to the contaminated sediments during lake draw down periods, such as the potential for health effects resulting from dermal contact with the sediments, or from inhalation of airborne sediment particles.

Based on a review of prior studies conducted and an evaluation of migration pathways, receptors and hazardous substances found in samples collected from the Upper Columbia River Basin, further investigation of the Upper Columbia River/Lake Roosevelt site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act is recommended.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this recommendation please call me at 206/624-9537

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